

BENI MADHO AND PIR ALI

It was a time of turbulence when resentment against British treachery and betrayal was simmering in the people of India. The Nawab of Avadh had been a staunch ally of the British, providing them with money, grain and cattle. And yet, Avadh was annexed through the Doctrine of Lapse as were other states like Satara, Sambalpur, Nagpur and Jhansi. The discontent triggered off the first war of Indian Independence. Rana Beni Madho and Pir Ali were two heroes of that period who inspired many to stand up against injustice.

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HEROES OF 1857

Vol 752 | ₹50



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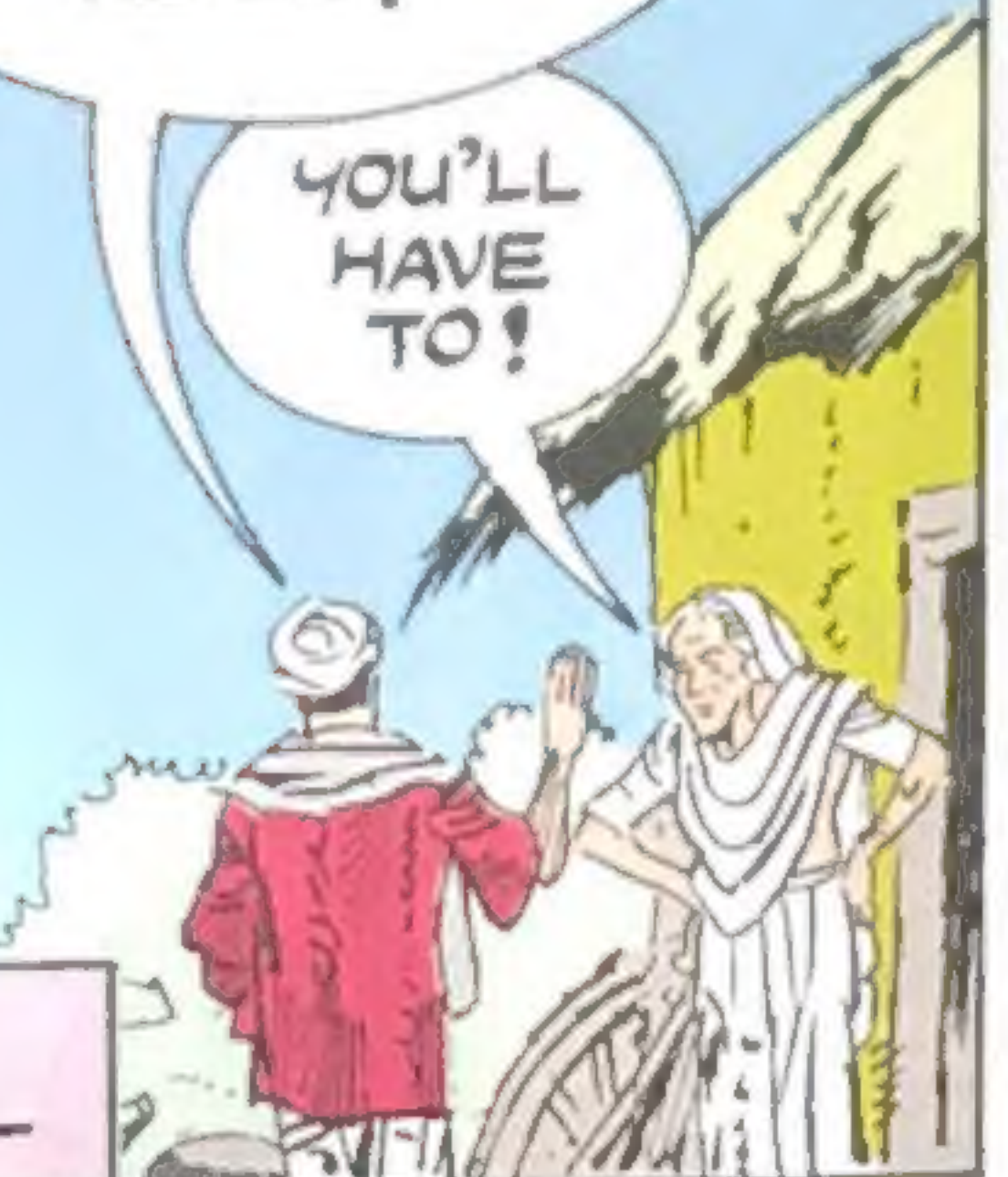
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BENI MADHO



NO! NO! A HUNDRED TIMES, NO! I WON'T GRAZE PIGS AND SHEEP! NEVER!

YOU'LL HAVE TO!



ONE MORNING IN MAY 1857, OUTSIDE THE FORT OF SHANKARPUR, IN AVADH—

YOU WERE BORN A PASI! BORN FOR SUCH JOBS! WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO, HEERA?



I... I WILL...

...JOIN THE ARMY OF RANA BENI MADHO. HE NEEDS SOLDIERS.



AAHAHA! WELL SAID MY GALLANT WARRIOR!



AS IF THE RANA WOULD CARE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU! THE ARMY OF PASIS...

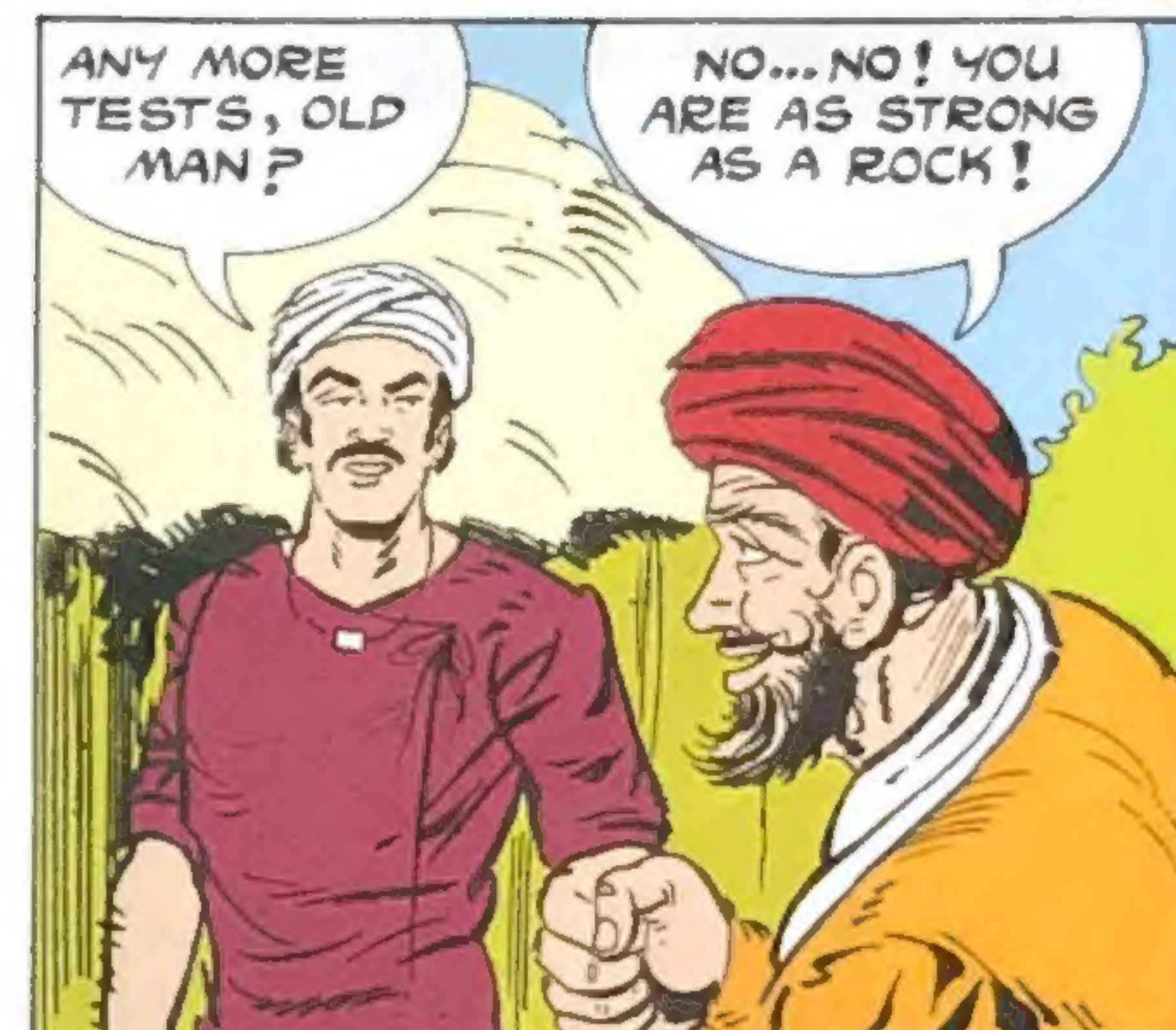
STOP IT! I'LL GO TO THE RANA THIS MINUTE!

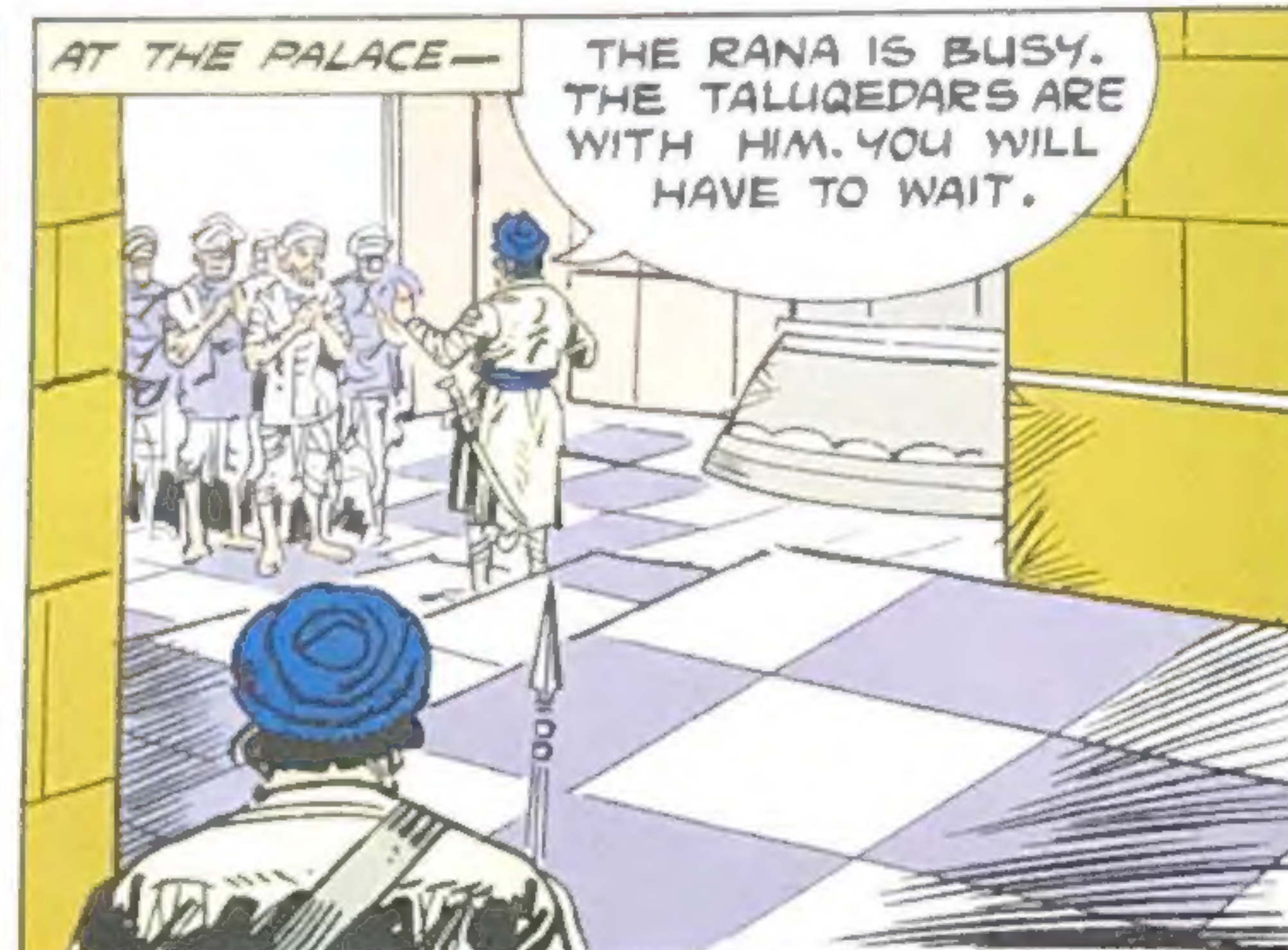


WAIT, YOUNG MAN. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'LL BE ENLISTED? HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT IN A BATTLE?

N-NO.

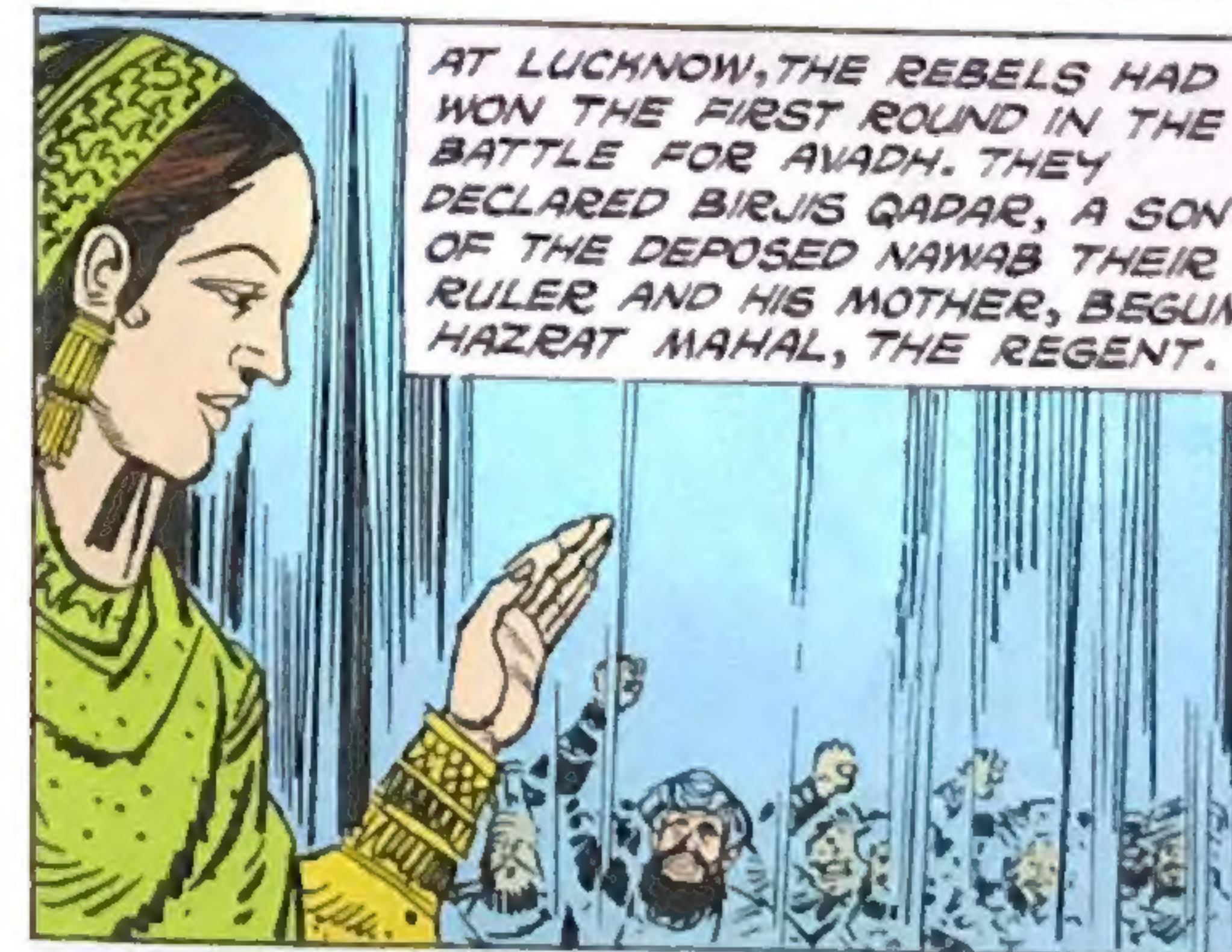


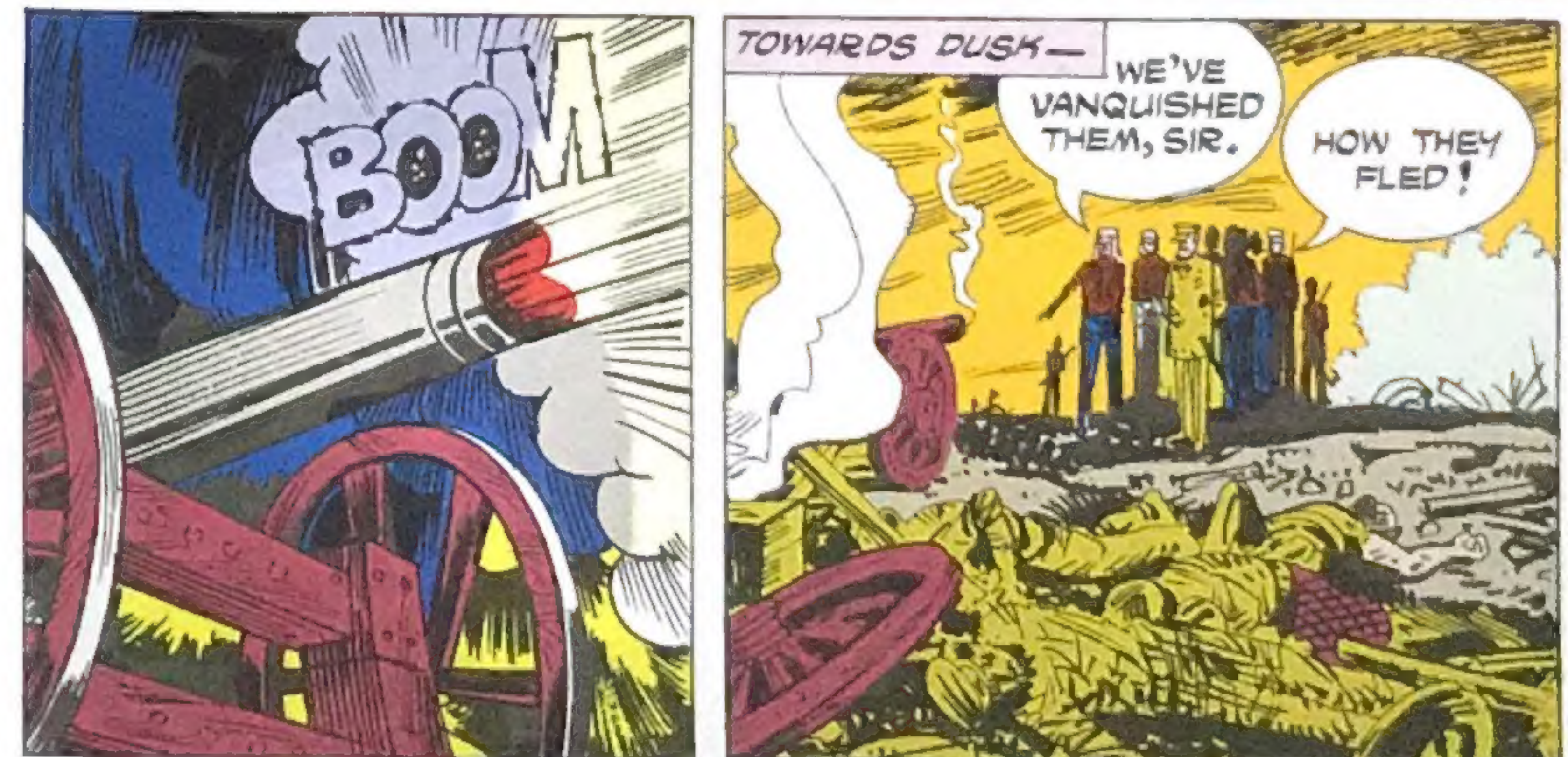
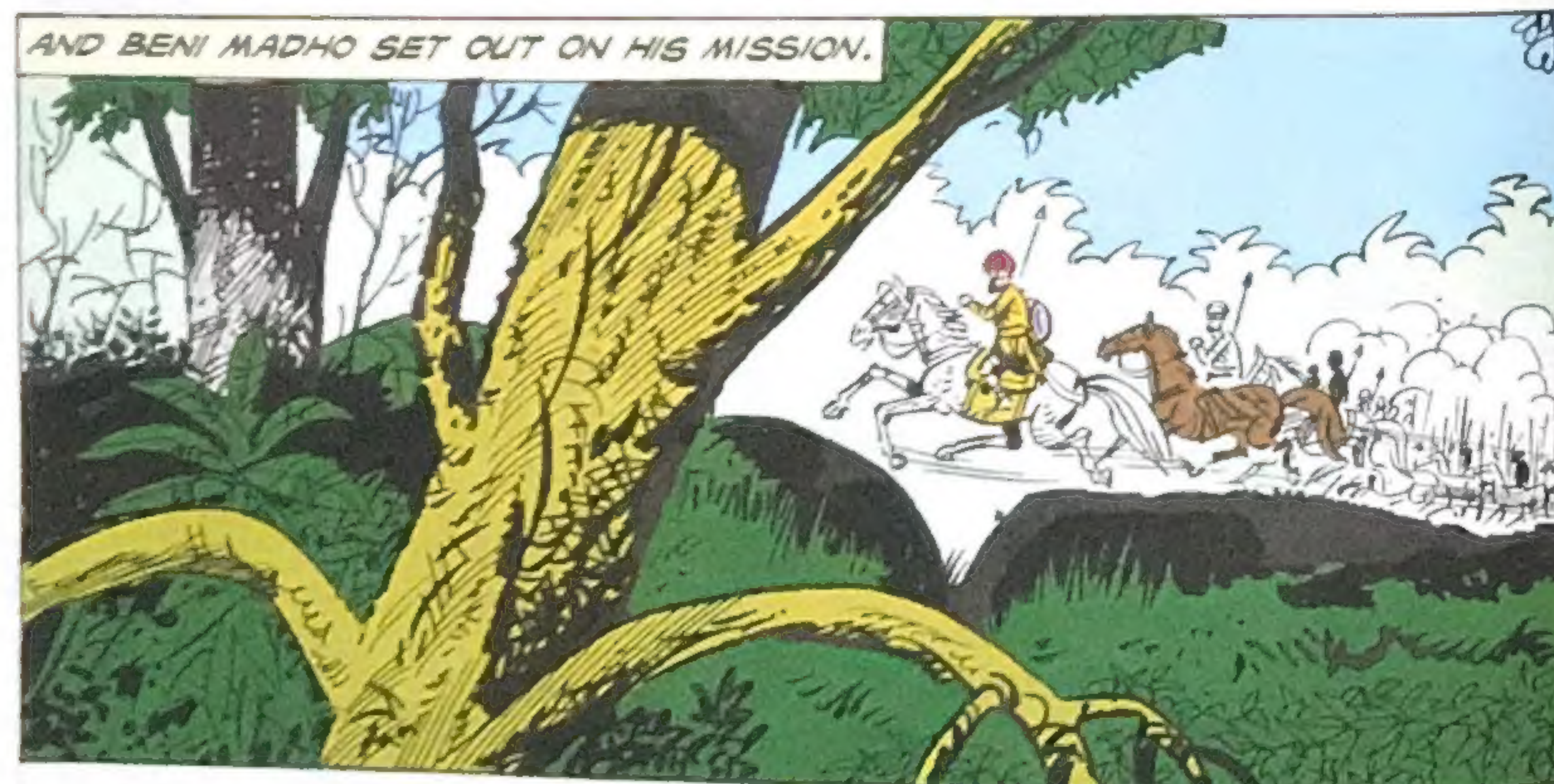


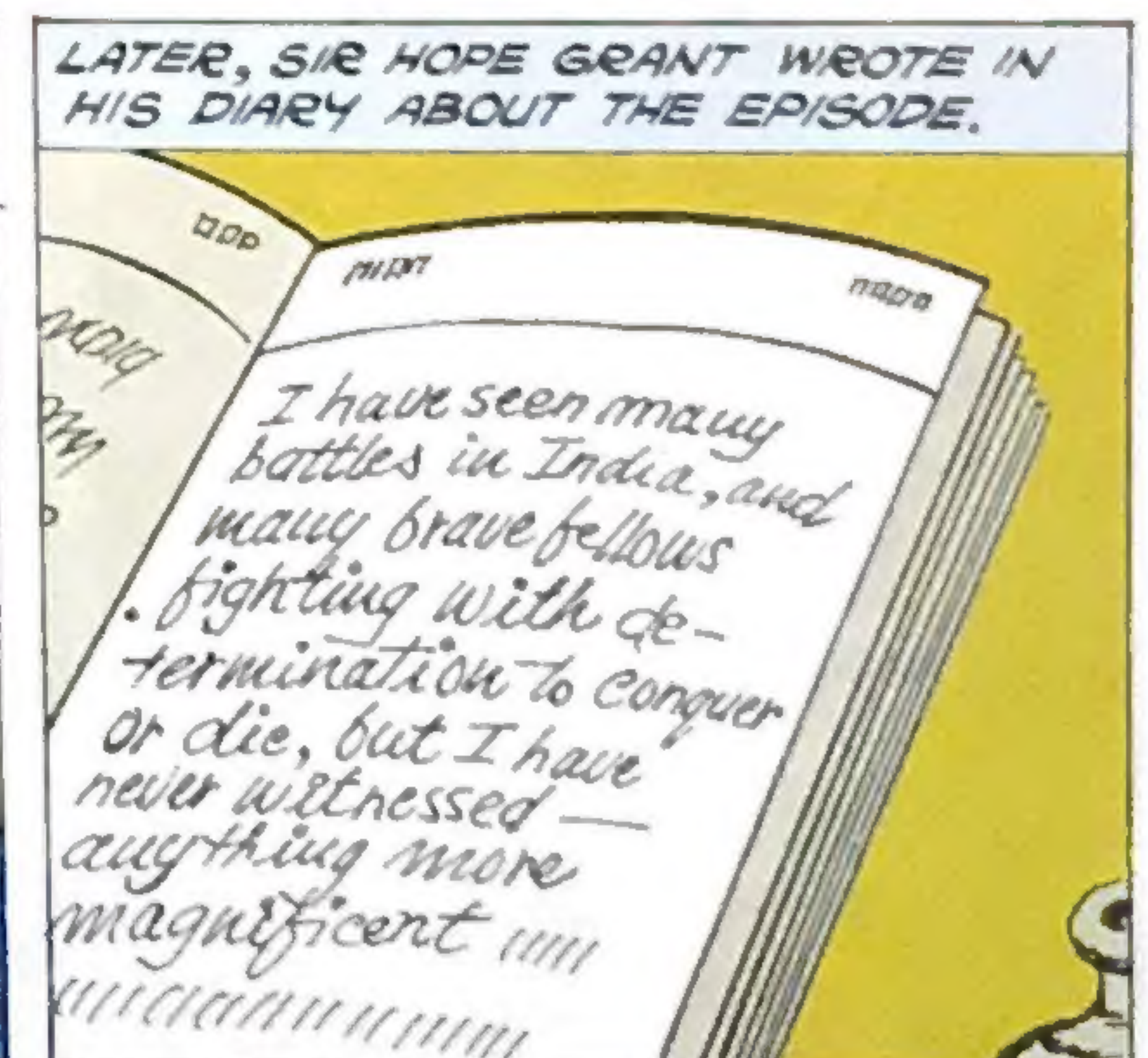
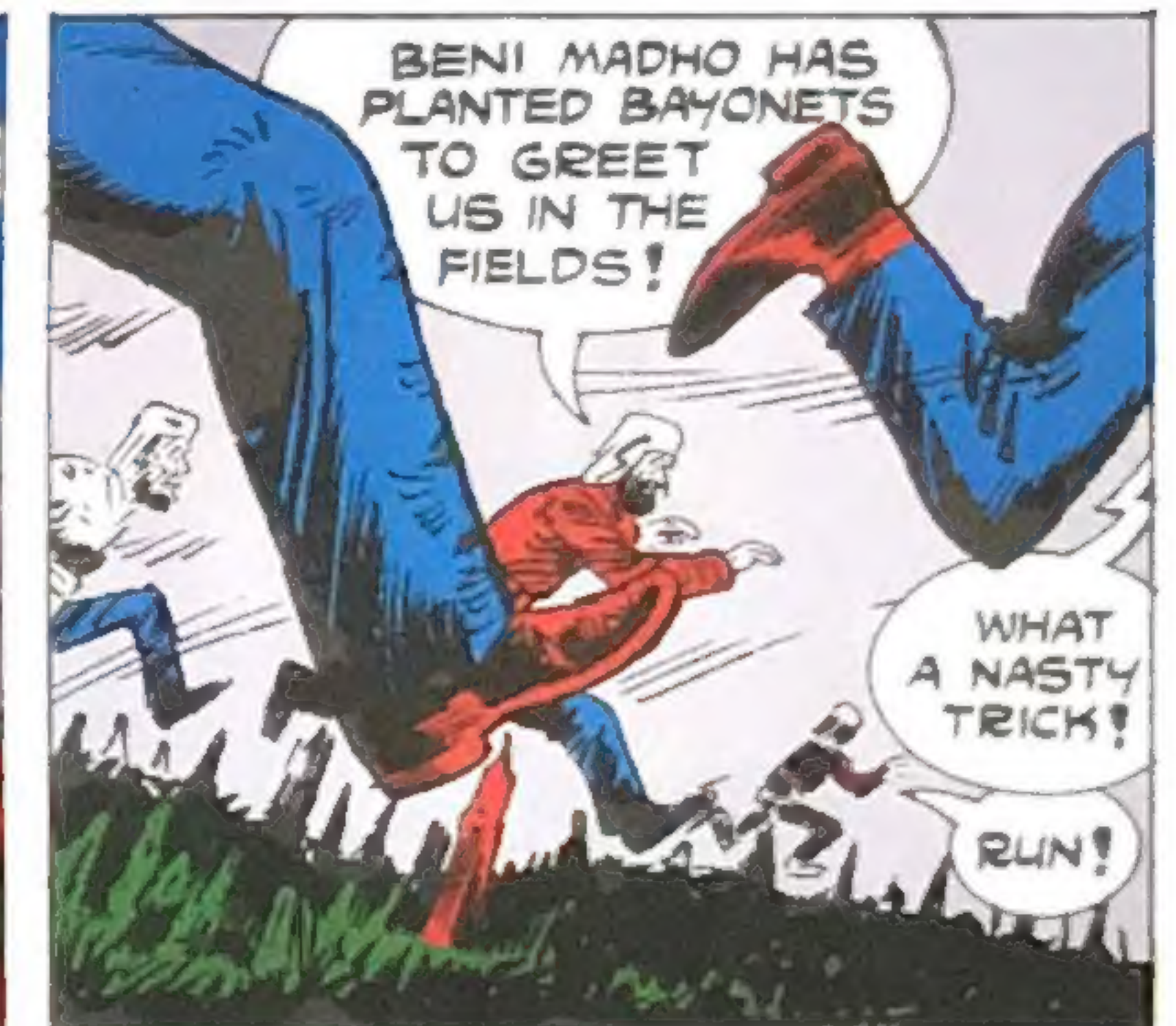




* OF 1857 † CAPITAL OF AVADH
@ OFFICE AND LIVING QUARTERS OF THE BRITISH RESIDENT







IN SPITE OF THE VALIANT FIGHT PUT UP BY THE REBELS IN BATTLES AT VARIOUS PLACES IN NORTH INDIA THE ORGANIZED OPERATIONS OF THE BRITISH WON THE DAY.



AT SHANKARPUR—



THE BRITISH QUELLED THE REBELLION BY THREATS, BRIBES AND MILITARY ACTION.



THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED THIS TIME. BUT WILL THEY SUCCEED IN REBELLIONS YET TO COME?



WHAT DO WE DO, FATHER?

NEED YOU ASK?

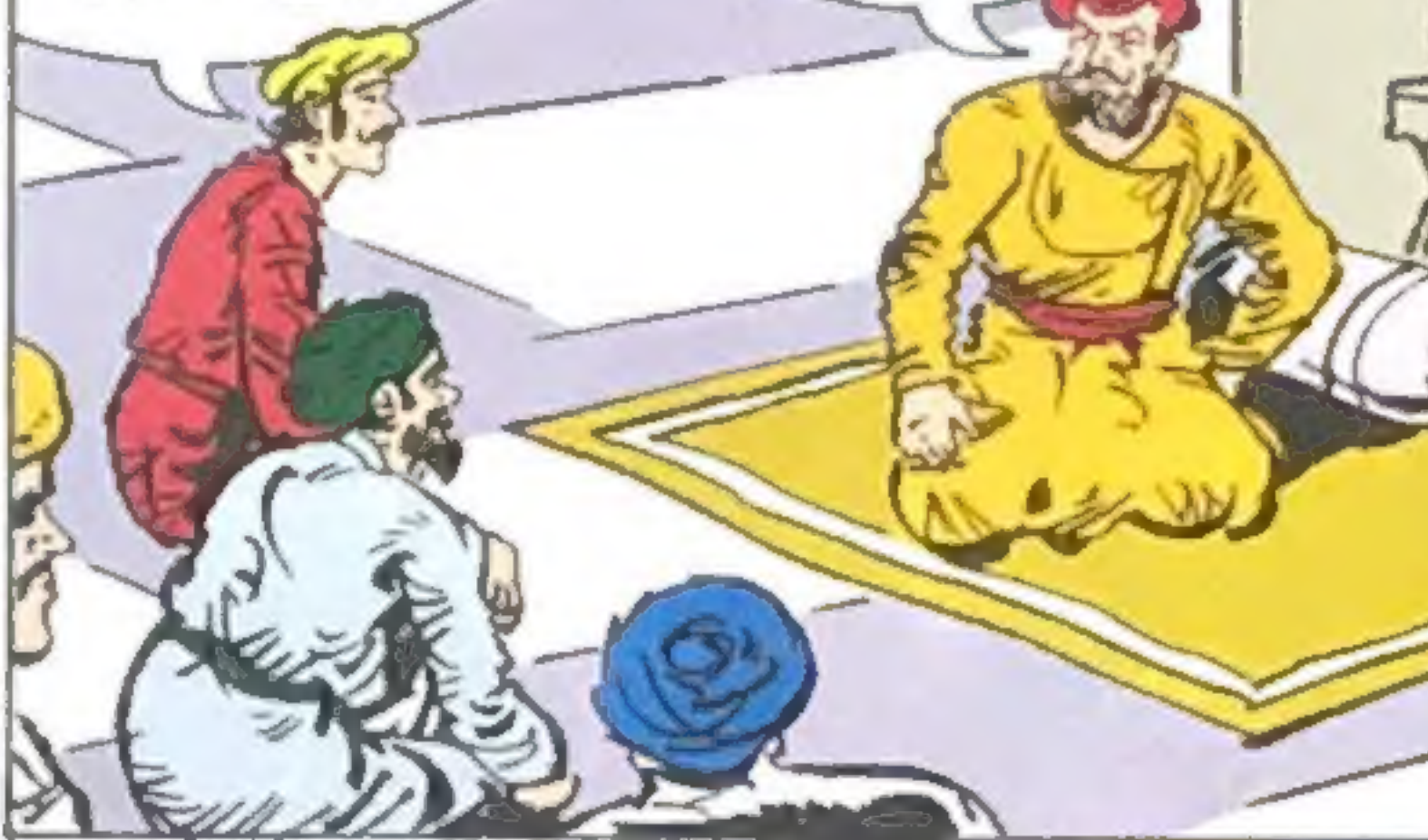


WE CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

A MONTH LATER—

FATHER, LORD CLYDE IS STATIONED SOUTH-EAST OF US...

AND HOPE GRANT NORTH-WEST.



MY DEAR RAGHU, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING THIS TIME.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FATHER?

WHY SHOULD WE LOSE LIVES UNNECESSARILY? AND RUIN OUR FORT?

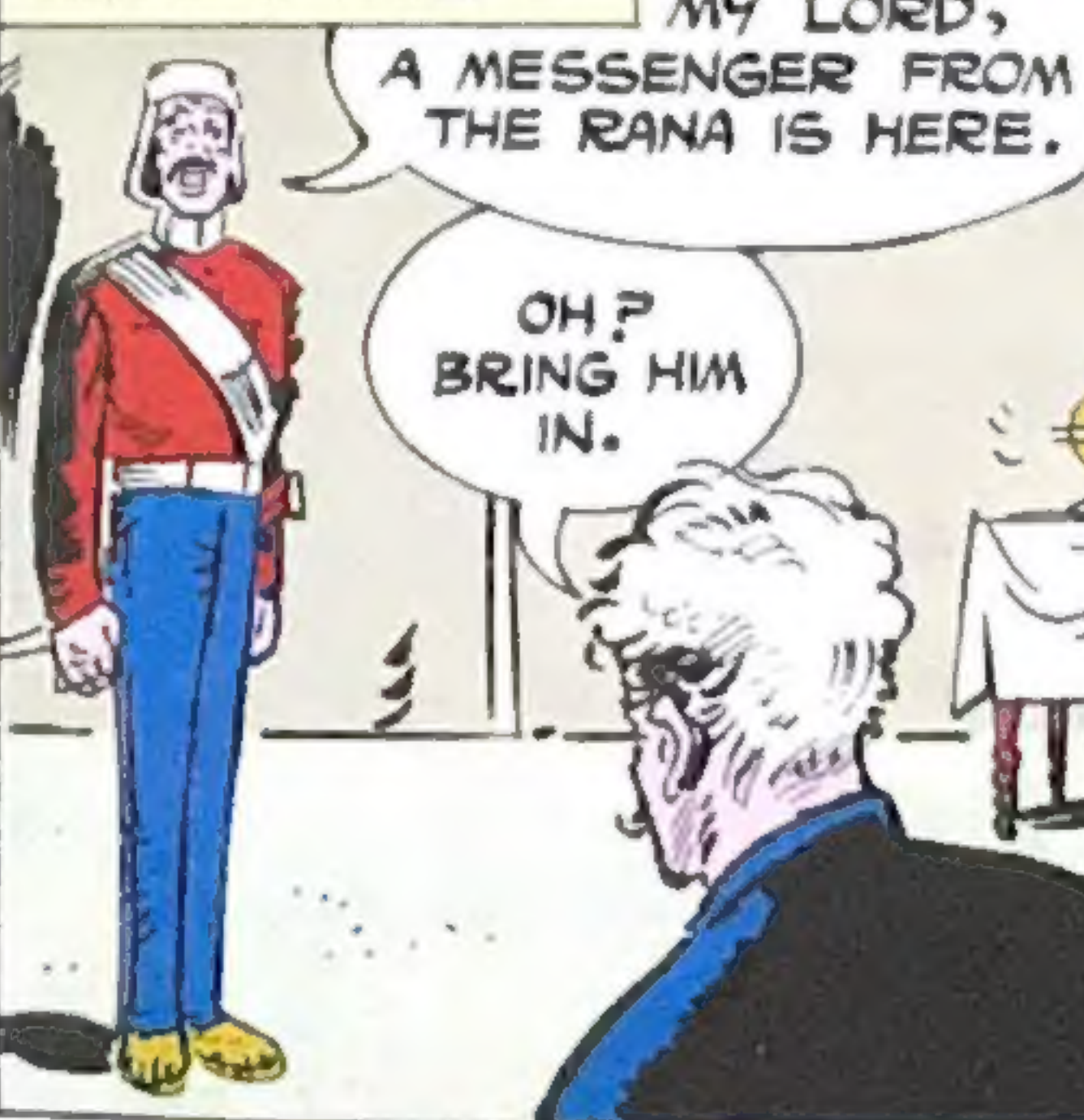


ARE WE, THEN, GOING TO GIVE UP?



NO! NEVER! BUT...

A FEW HOURS LATER, AT LORD CLYDE'S CAMP—

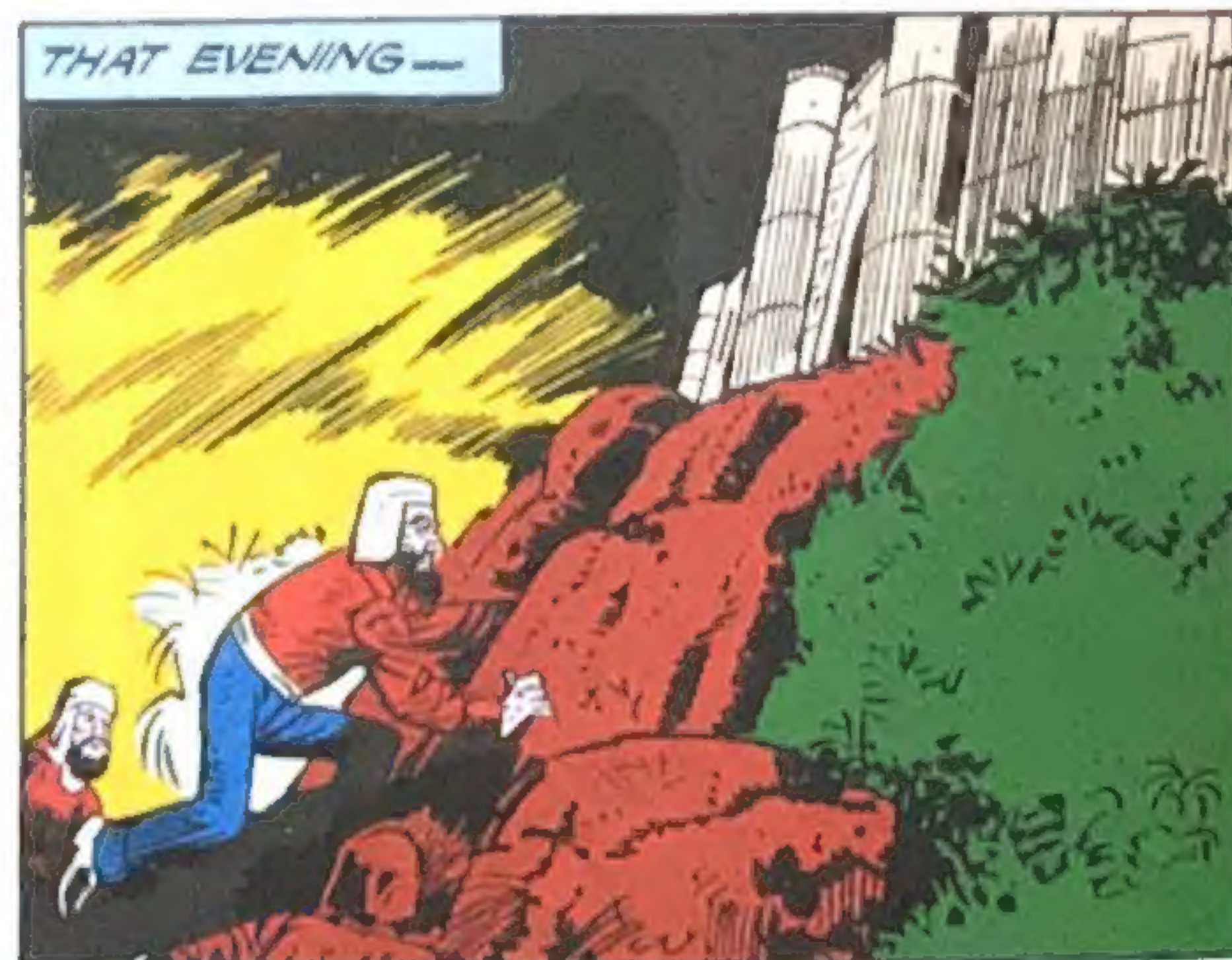
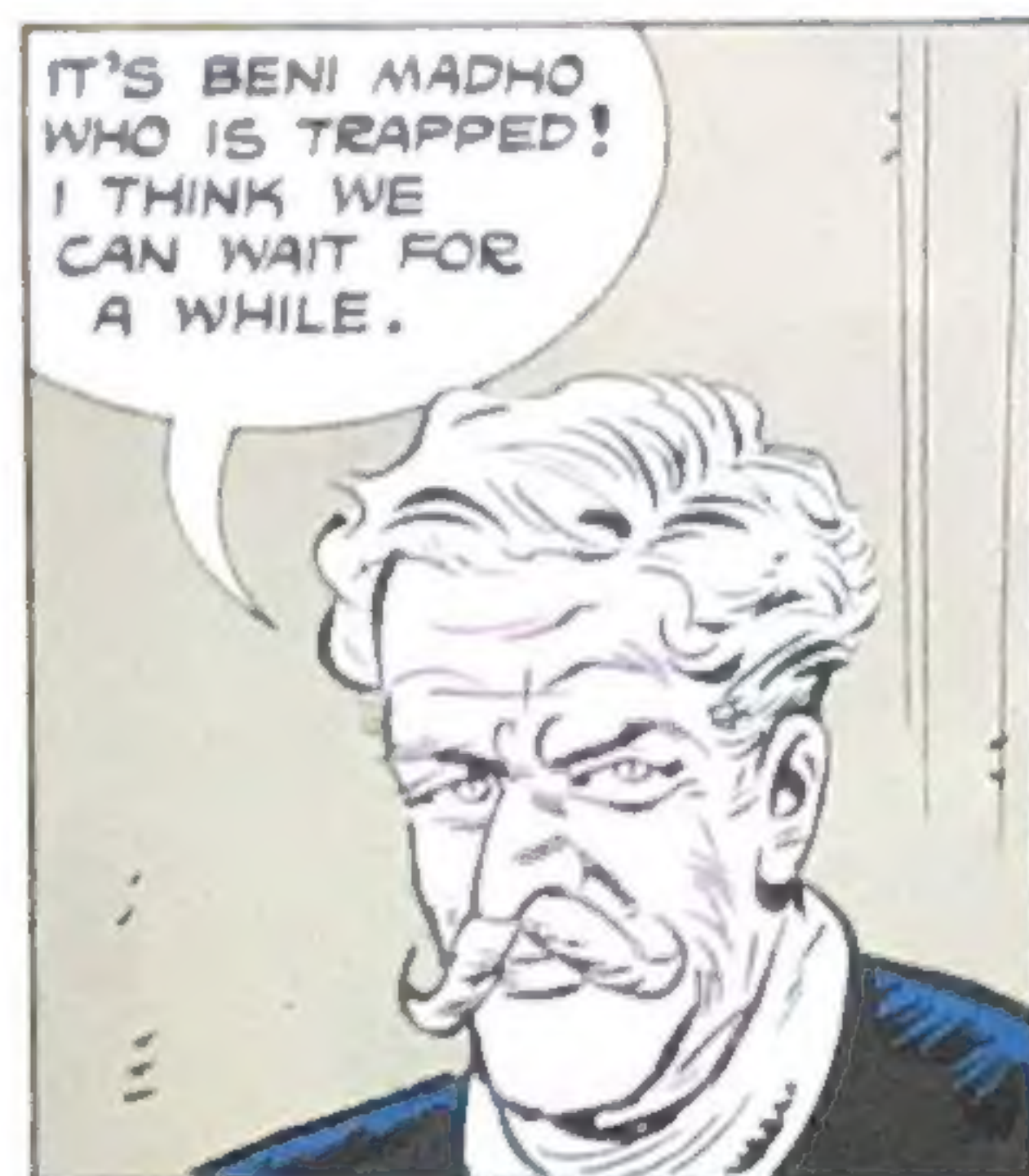
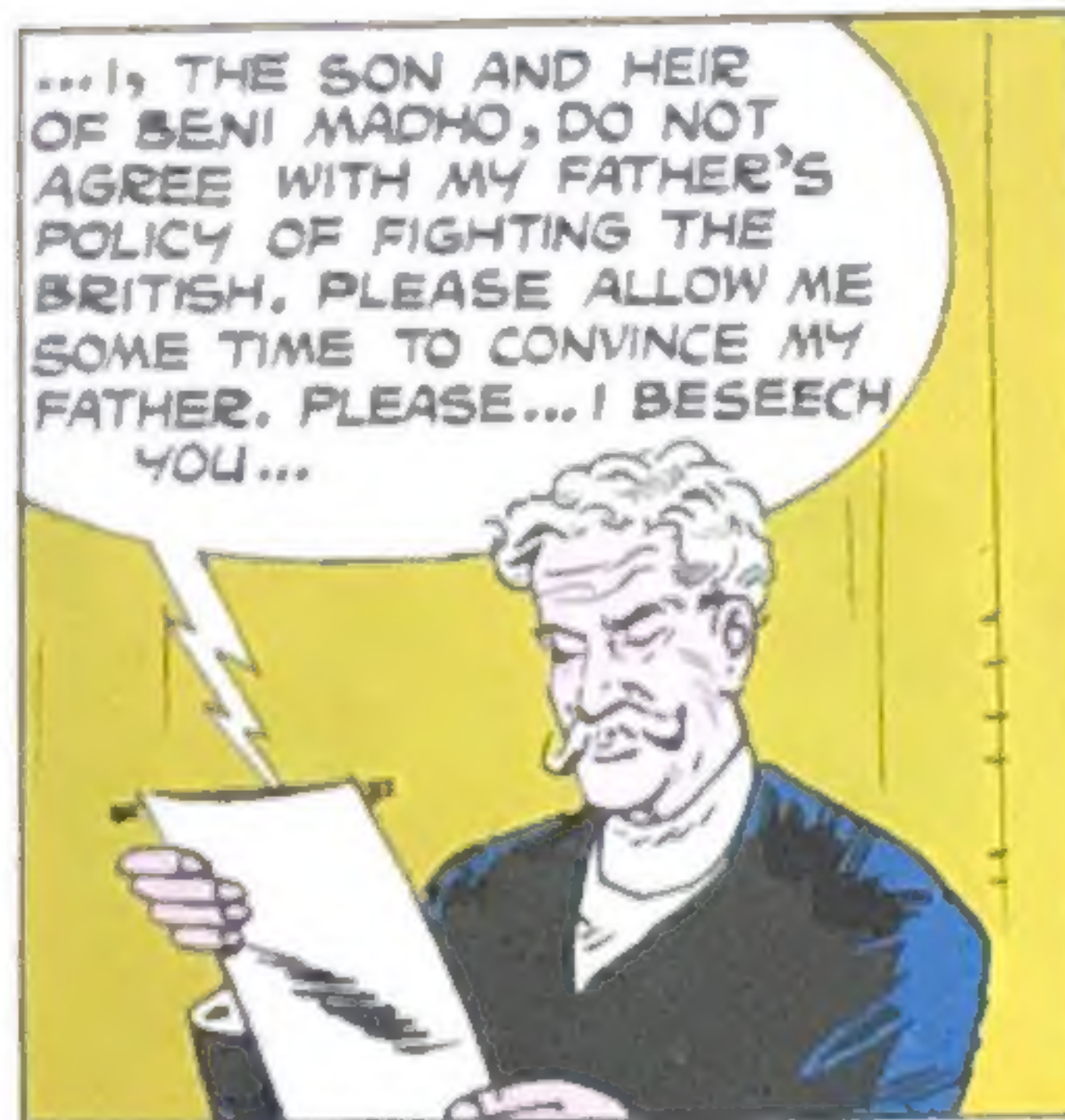


MY LORD, A MESSENGER FROM THE RANA IS HERE.

OH? BRING HIM IN.



HUZOOR, I COME WITH A LETTER FROM RAGHURAJ SINGH, THE SON OF RANA BENI MADHO.



राम ब्रह्म व्यापक जगजाना।
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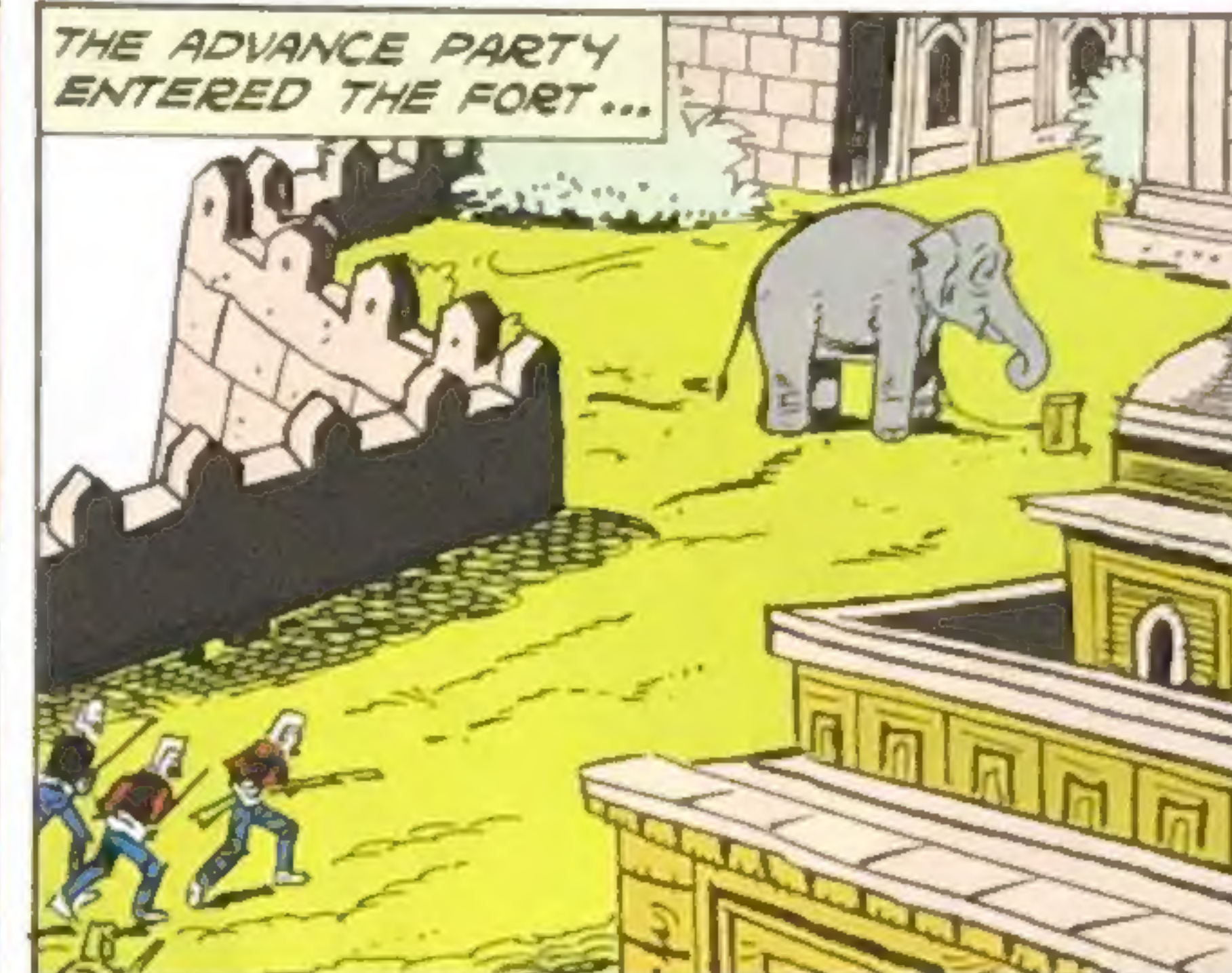
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BENI MADHO



CLYDE SENT BRIGADIER EVELEIGH IN PURSUIT OF THE RANA. ON THE WAY HEERA PASI GAVE HIM BATTLE AT DAUNDIA KHERA.



EVELEIGH HEADED TOWARDS PORAI, WHERE LATER A CONTINGENT SENT BY LORD CLYDE MET HIM.



SIR, THE RANA IS AT BHEERA GOVINDPUR.

WE'LL CATCH THE ROGUE THERE!

MEANWHILE AT BHEERA GOVINDPUR—

CHANDRIKA SINGH, I DISLIKE FIGHTING NEAR A TOWN. I CAN'T BEAR THE AGONIES THIS BRINGS TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



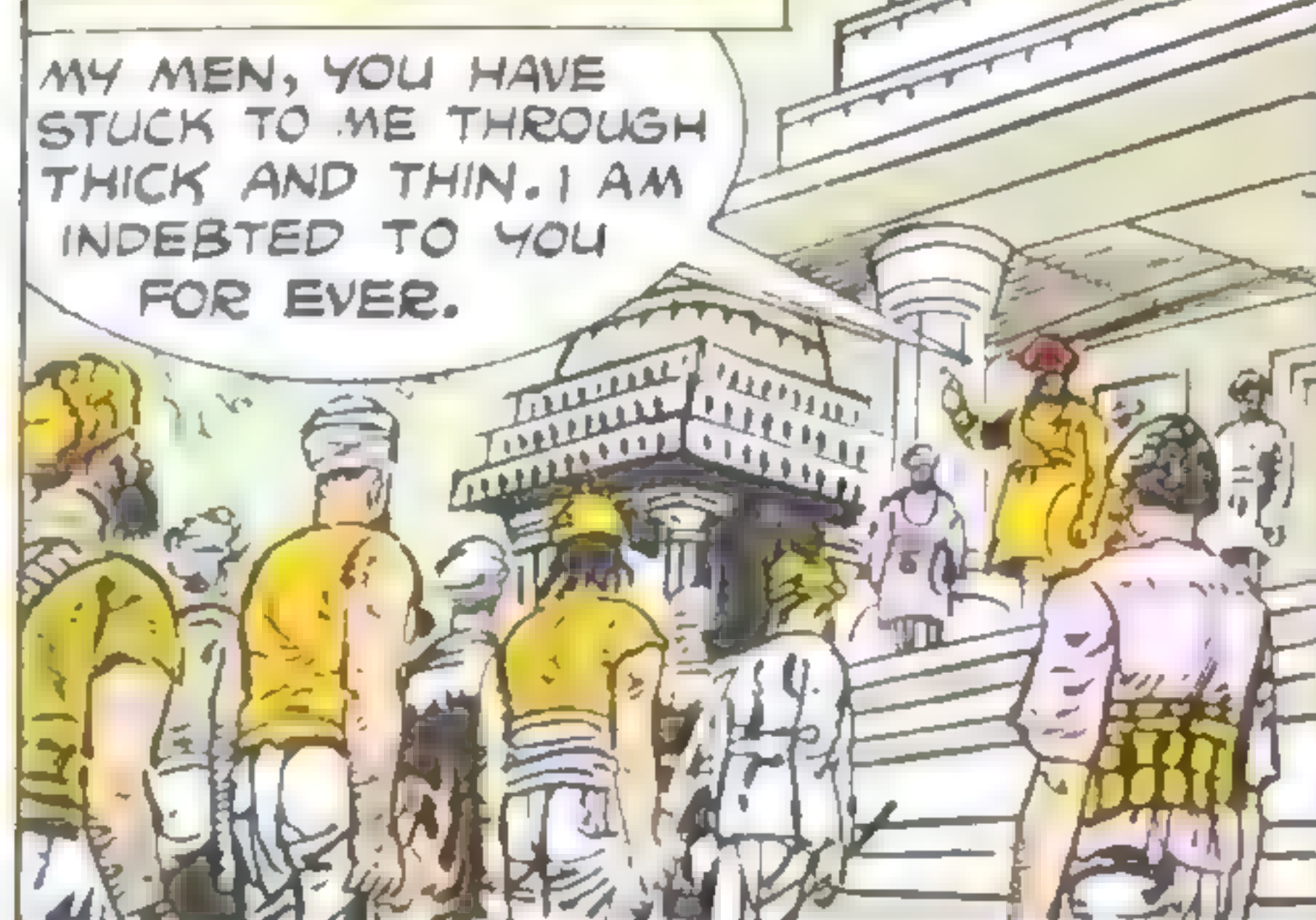
I KNOW, SIR...



...BUT... WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

YES... YOU ARE RIGHT! WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

EARLY IN THE MORNING ON DECEMBER 17, 1858, THE RANA WORSHIPPED THE GODDESS AND THEN—



MY MEN, YOU HAVE STUCK TO ME THROUGH THICK AND THIN. I AM INDEBTED TO YOU FOR EVER.



BUT NOW THE ODDS ARE HEAVILY AGAINST US. SO, THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR FAMILIES MAY DO SO.

NOT A SOUL MOVED.



AND THEN—

WE ARE WITH YOU.



RANA BENI MADHO KI JAI!

SOON—



SUDDENLY—

THE RANA! HE IS SURROUNDED!







BUT HE STAYED WITH YOU, DIDN'T HE? YOU NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH!



TELL US WHERE HE IS AND YOU'LL BE FORGIVEN!



THE RANA MEANWHILE HAD REACHED DAUNDIA KHERA. SOME DAYS LATER--

HUZOOR, THEY HANGED POOR LALCHAND!

AND RAZED HIS HOUSE TO THE GROUND.



THEN ONE DAY A VISITOR CAME TO MEET HIM.

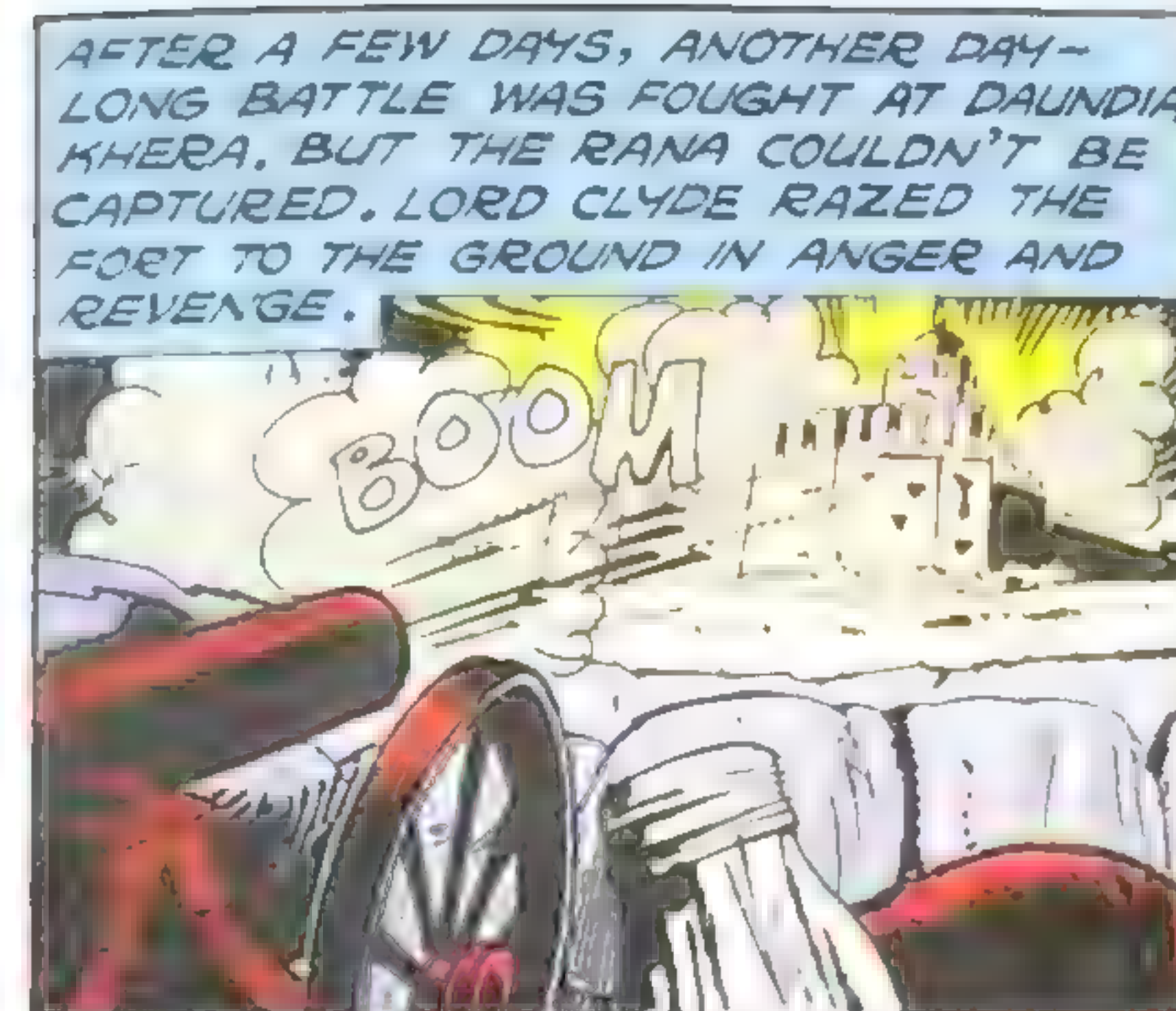
YOU ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE, RANA SAHEB. EVEN NOW IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

TOO LATE FOR WHAT?



TO SEEK PARDON. EVEN THE BEGUM IS FLEEING TO NEPAL.

THIS HEAD BOWS ONLY BEFORE GODDESS DURGA... OR MY KING!



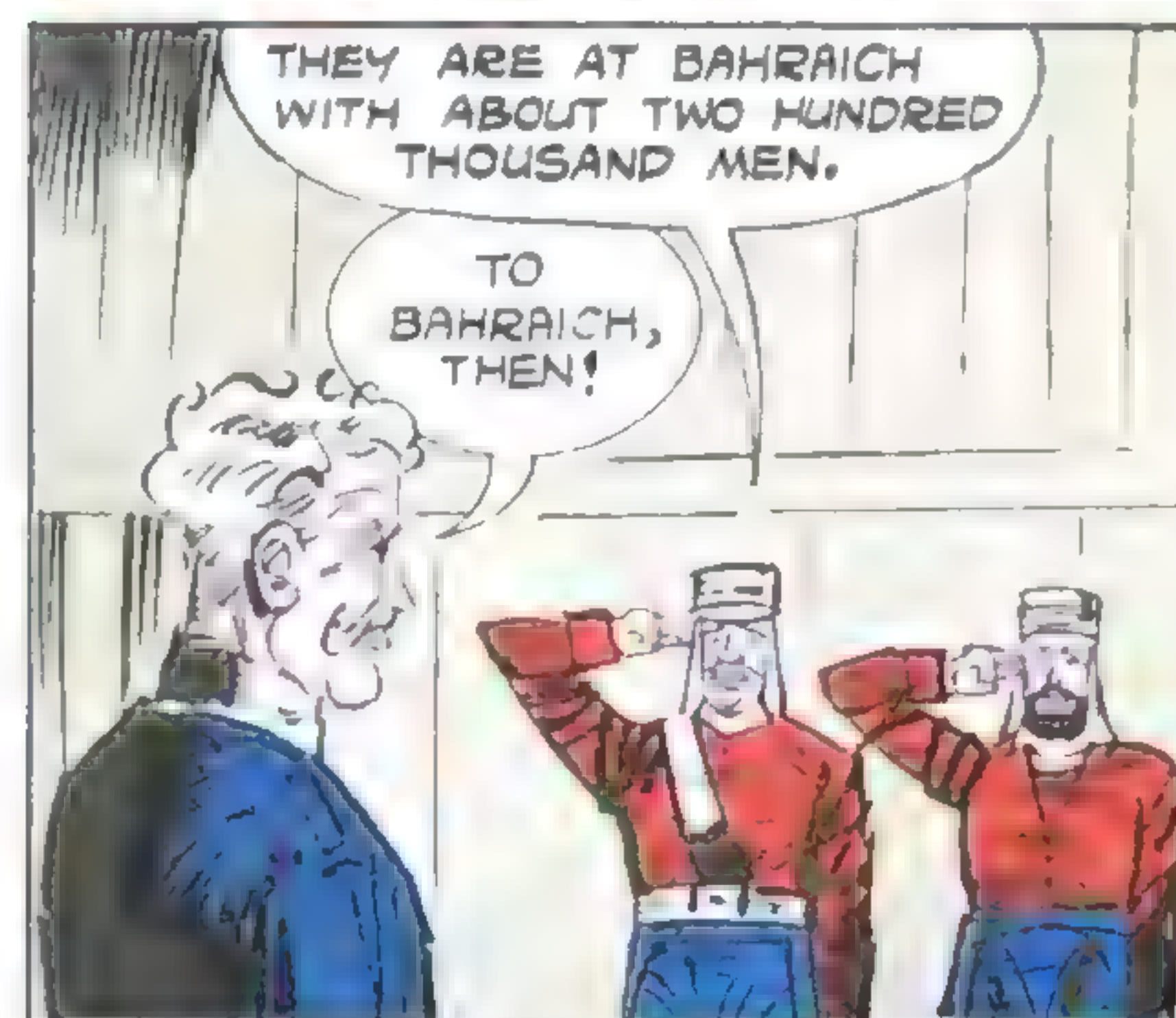
AFTER A FEW DAYS, ANOTHER DAY-LONG BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AT DAUNDIA KHERA. BUT THE RANA COULDN'T BE CAPTURED. LORD CLYDE RAZED THE FORT TO THE GROUND IN ANGER AND REVENGE.

BOOM



AFTER SOME TIME, THE SPIES BROUGHT NEWS.

SIR, THE BEGUM, NANA SAHEB, BENI MADHO ARE ALL ON THE RUN... TO NEPAL.



THEY ARE AT BAHRACH WITH ABOUT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN.

TO BAHRACH, THEN!



LORD CLYDE REACHED THE FOREST OF NANAPARA, NEAR THE NORTHERN BORDER OF AVADH. A FIERCE BATTLE FOLLOWED, BUT --

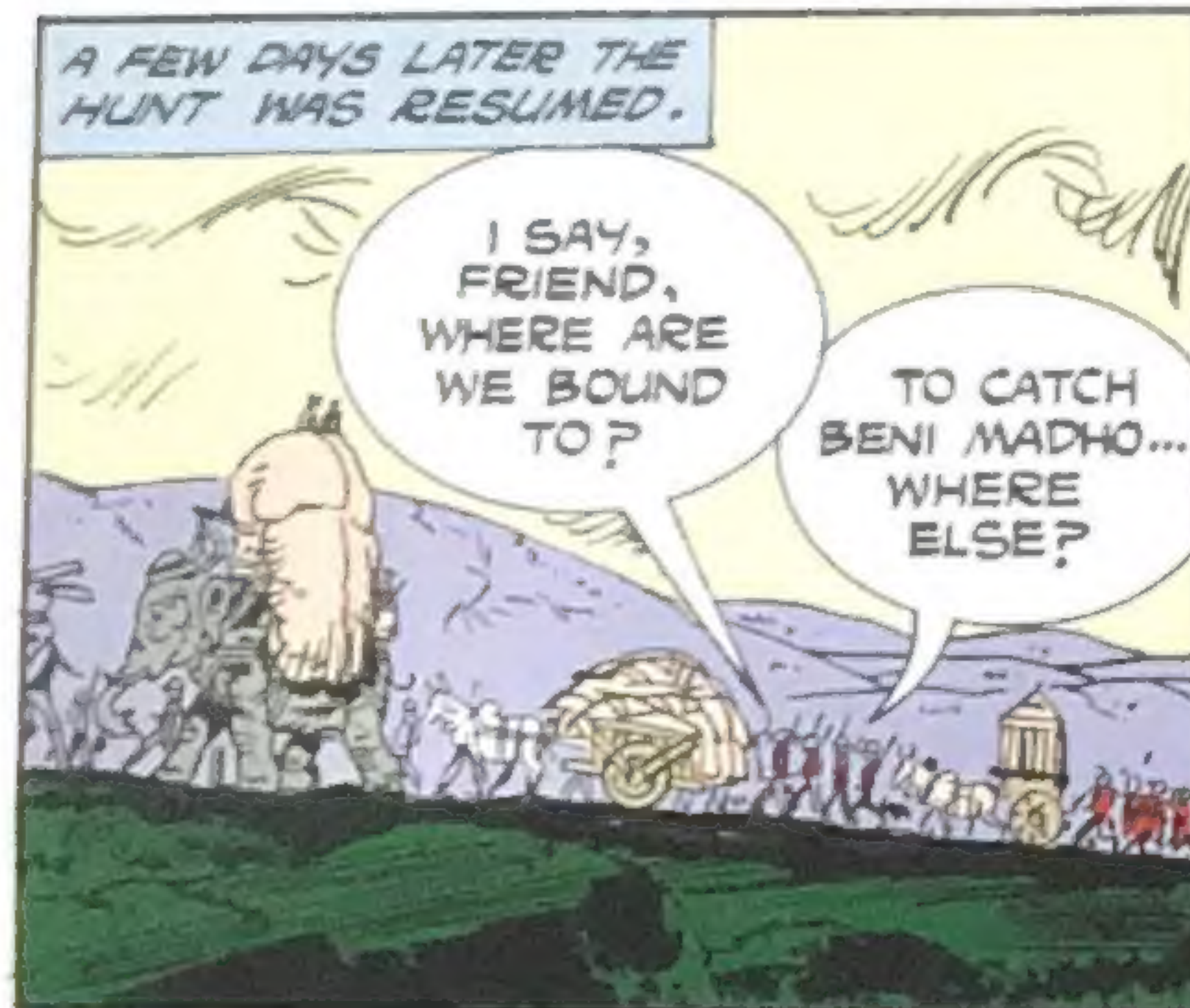
NOT ONE! NOT A SINGLE NOTABLE REBEL LEADER CAUGHT! WHAT STUFF ARE THEY MADE OF!



THE BRITISH PRESS IS AWARDEDING ME WITH SUPERLATIVES...!



BENI MADHO... I'LL CATCH YOU YET... SOME DAY SOMEWHERE!



A FEW DAYS LATER THE HUNT WAS RESUMED.

I SAY, FRIEND, WHERE ARE WE BOUND TO?

TO CATCH BENI MADHO... WHERE ELSE?



OH LORD! BUT... WHY SO MUCH FUSS OVER ONE CHAP?

BECAUSE HE IS THE MOST SLIPPERY OF ALL!



HOW I WISH WE COULD GO HOME! LET BENI MADHO GO WHERE HE WILL. DON'T YOU AGREE?

MOST HEARTILY. BUT... CLYDE DOESN'T.

WHERE, O WHERE ARE YOU? BENI MADHO, O BENI MADHO!



WE HAVE BEEN COMBING THESE GOD-FORSAKEN JUNGLES FOR WEEKS...

...AND NOT A SIGN OF BENI MADHO!



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?

O BENI MADHO, BENI MADHO!

WHY DO YOU FEAR THE BRITISH PLUCK?

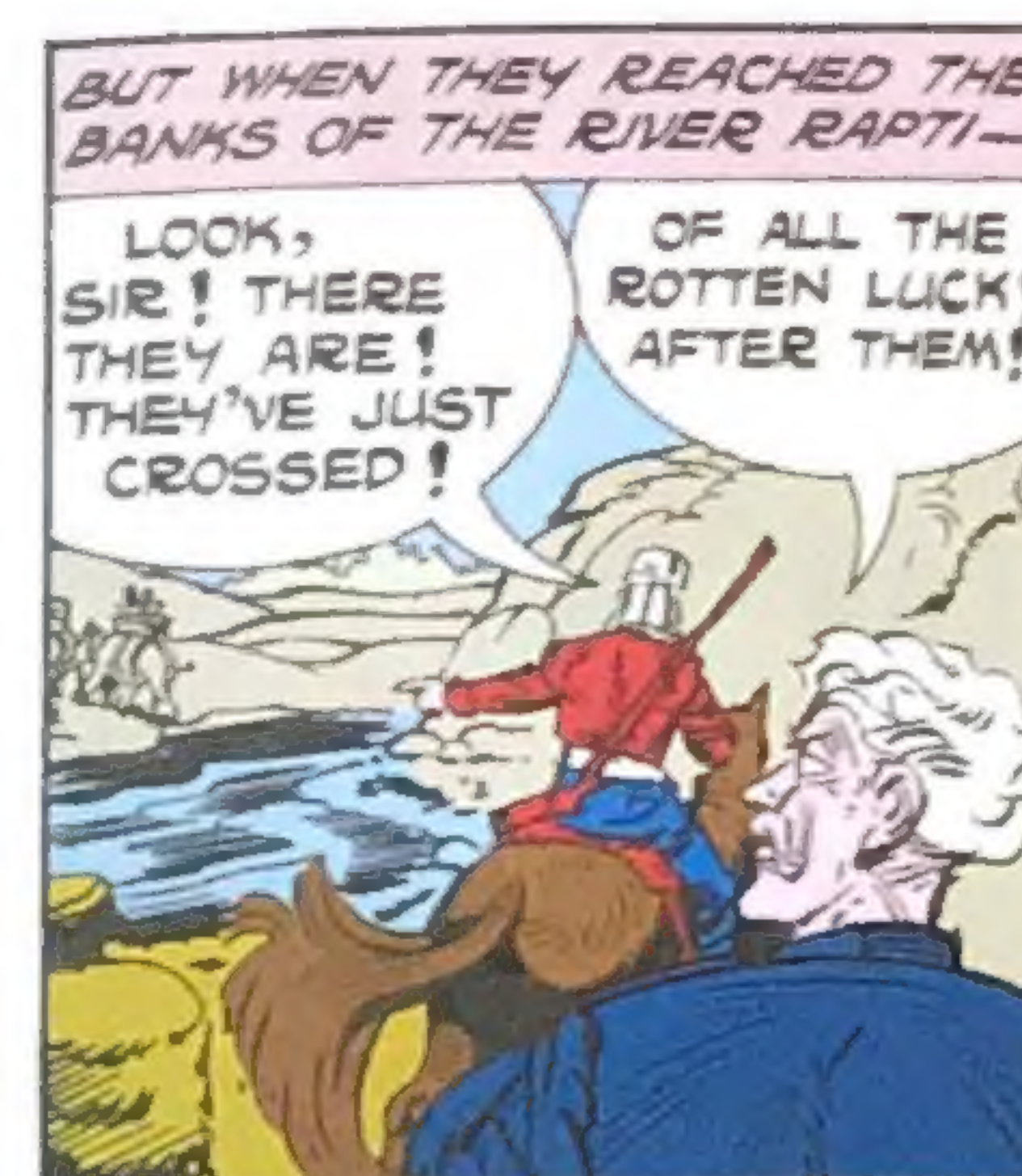
O BENI MADHO! O BENI MADHO!



FINALLY, ONE DAY—

HUZOOR! HUZOOR, BENI MADHO IS ABOUT TO CROSS THE RIVER RAPTI A FEW MILES FROM HERE!

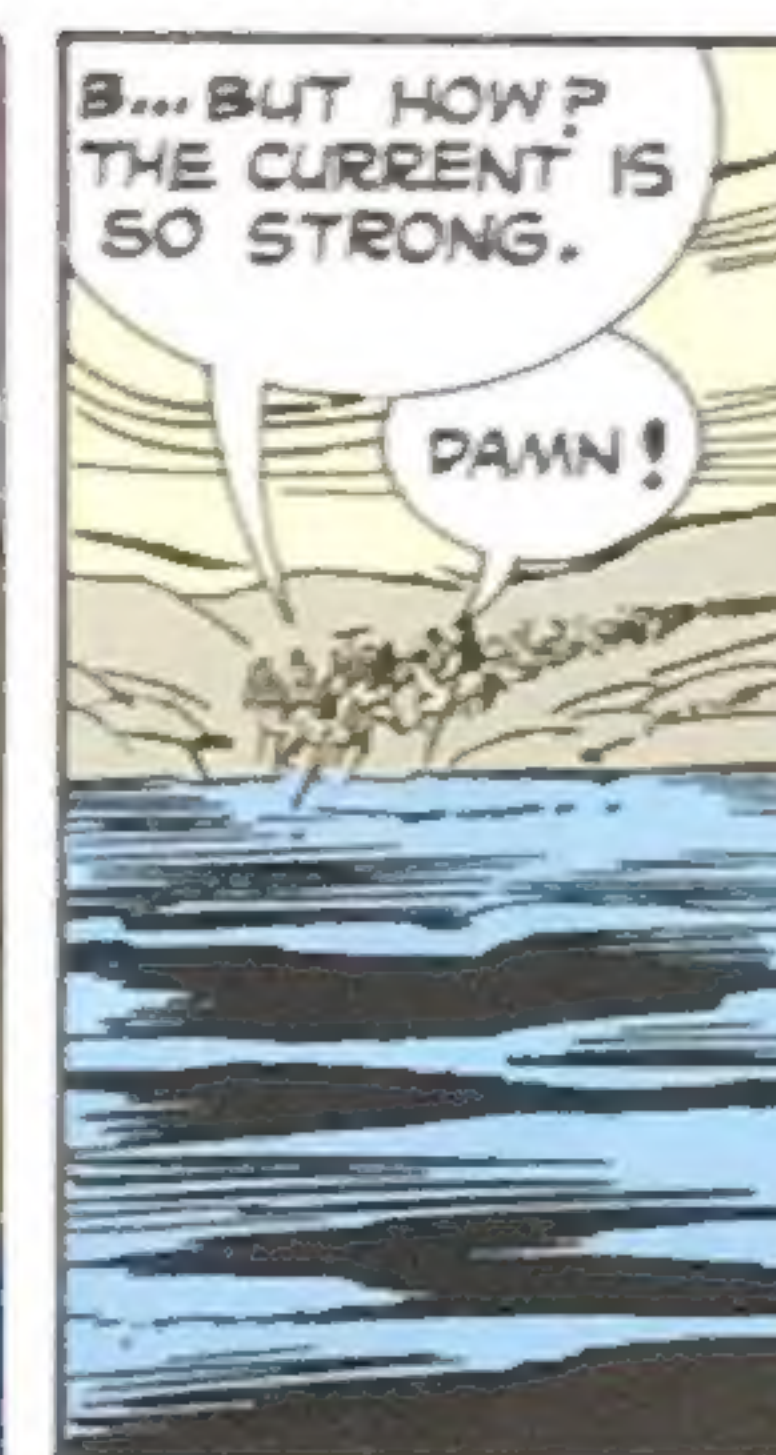
REALLY? WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE.



BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE BANKS OF THE RIVER RAPTI—

LOOK, SIR! THERE THEY ARE! THEY'VE JUST CROSSED!

OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK! AFTER THEM!



B... BUT HOW? THE CURRENT IS SO STRONG.

DAMN!



SIR... DON'T WORRY... WE'LL CATCH THEM YET!

HEY! WATCH OUT! STEADY! BOY, STEADY!



BUT— AAAH!

BANG!



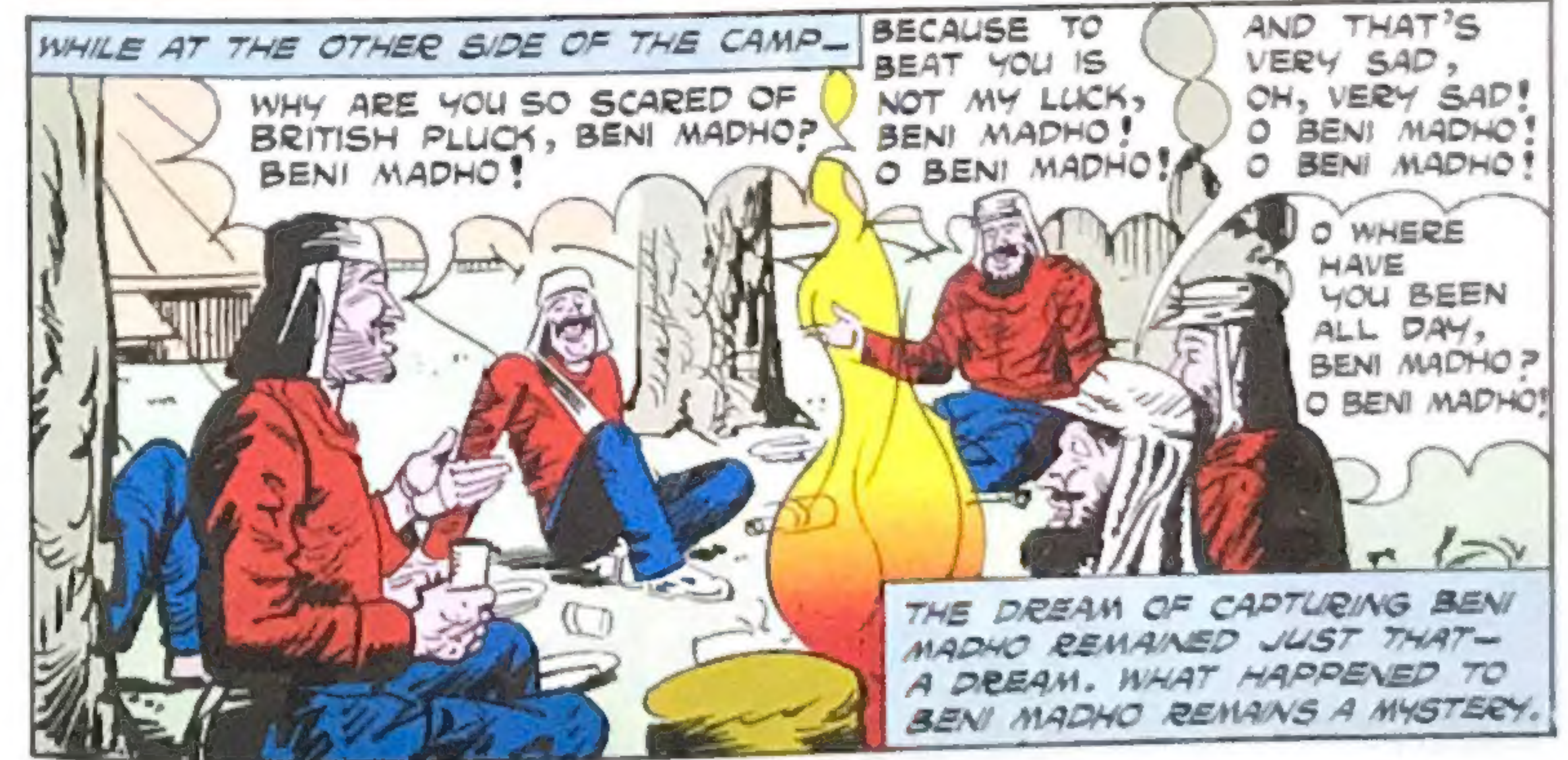
MAJOR HORNE! HE'S BEEN SWEEP AWAY!



AS NIGHT FELL—

SIR, BENI MADHO HAS ESCAPED AGAIN.

BAD LUCK!



WHILE AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMP—

WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED OF BRITISH PLUCK, BENI MADHO? BENI MADHO!

BECAUSE TO BEAT YOU IS NOT MY LUCK, BENI MADHO! O BENI MADHO!

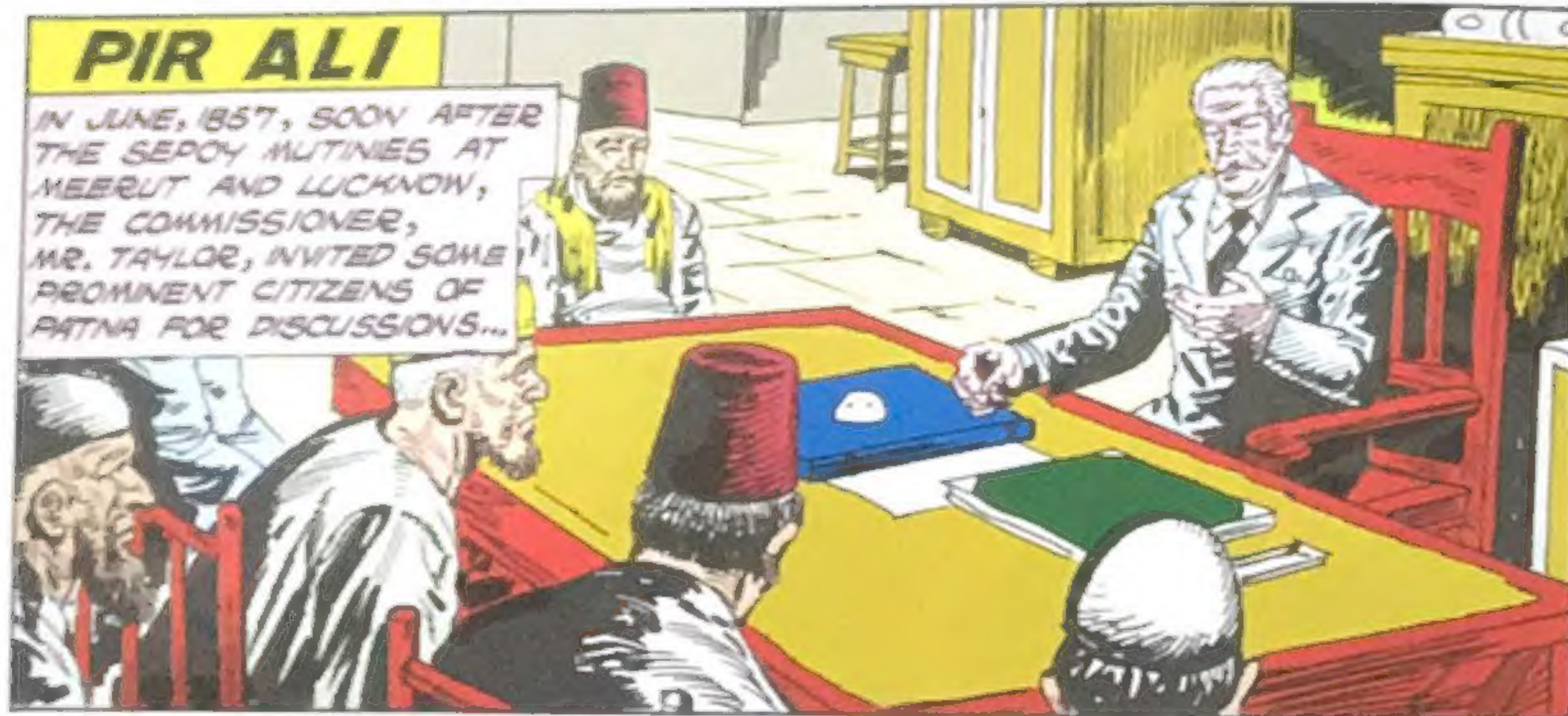
AND THAT'S VERY SAD, OH, VERY SAD! O BENI MADHO! O BENI MADHO!

O WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY, BENI MADHO? O BENI MADHO!

THE DREAM OF CAPTURING BENI MADHO REMAINED JUST THAT— A DREAM. WHAT HAPPENED TO BENI MADHO REMAINS A MYSTERY.

PIR ALI

IN JUNE, 1857, SOON AFTER THE SEPOY MUTINIES AT MEERUT AND LUCKNOW, THE COMMISSIONER, MR. TAYLOR, INVITED SOME PROMINENT CITIZENS OF PATNA FOR DISCUSSIONS...



...AND AFTER THE MEETING PUT THREE OF THEM UNDER HOUSE-ARREST.



A FEW DAYS LATER, AN ANGRY MOB CAME CHARGING DOWN A STREET, NEAR THE HOUSE OF PIR ALI, A BOOKSELLER.



FIRANGIS!

FALL UPON THEM!

IN THE SCUFFLE THAT FOLLOWED, AN ENGLISHMAN WAS KILLED.



PIR ALI'S HOUSE WAS SEARCHED BUT HE HAD ABSCONDED.

WE'LL CATCH HIM YET! SOONER OR LATER!

AT MEHDEEGUNJ POLICE CHOWKEE, THE NEXT AFTERNOON—

HURRY, JAMADAR! A ROBBER IS FLEEING!



THAT WAY!

AFTER HIM!

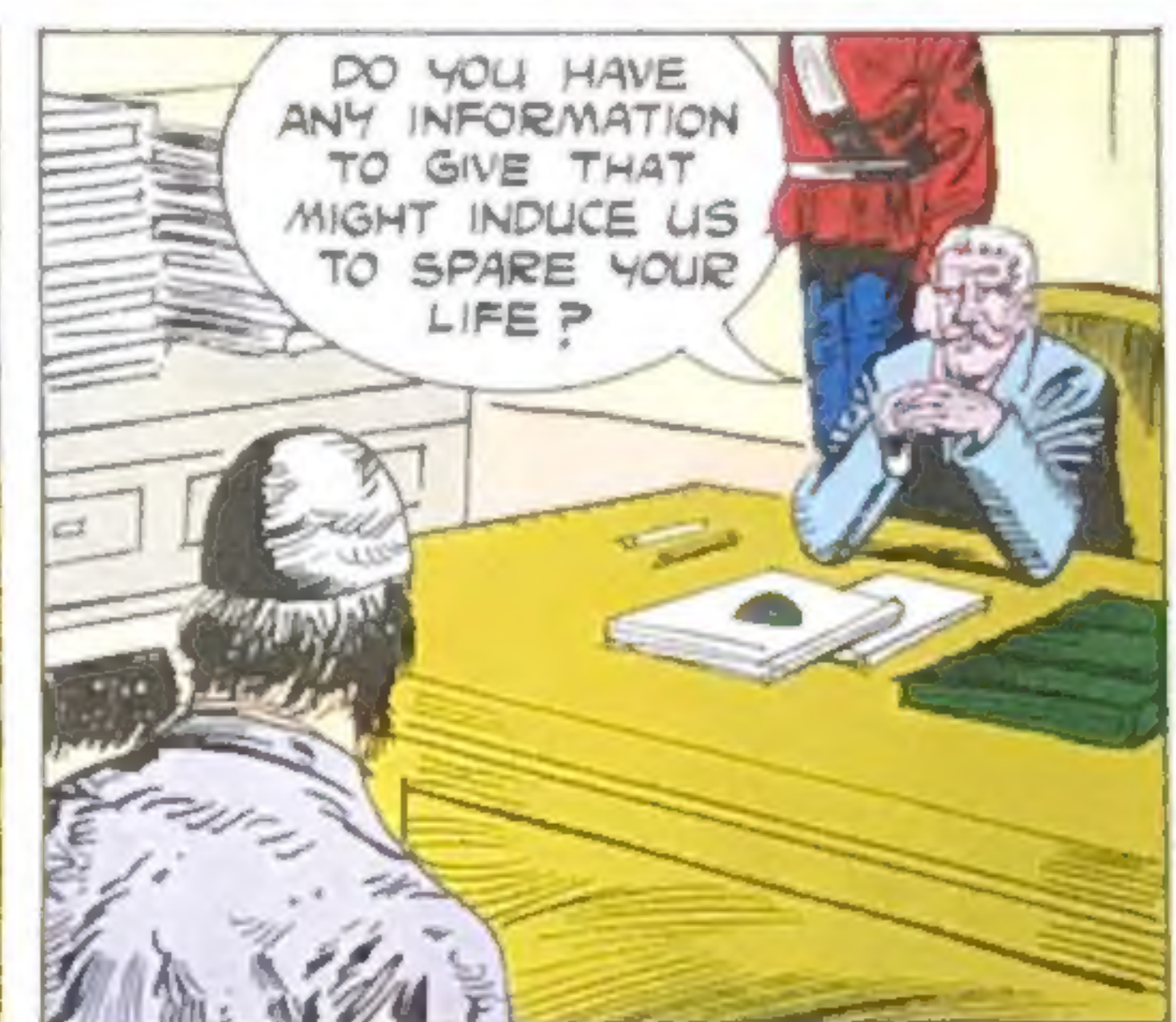
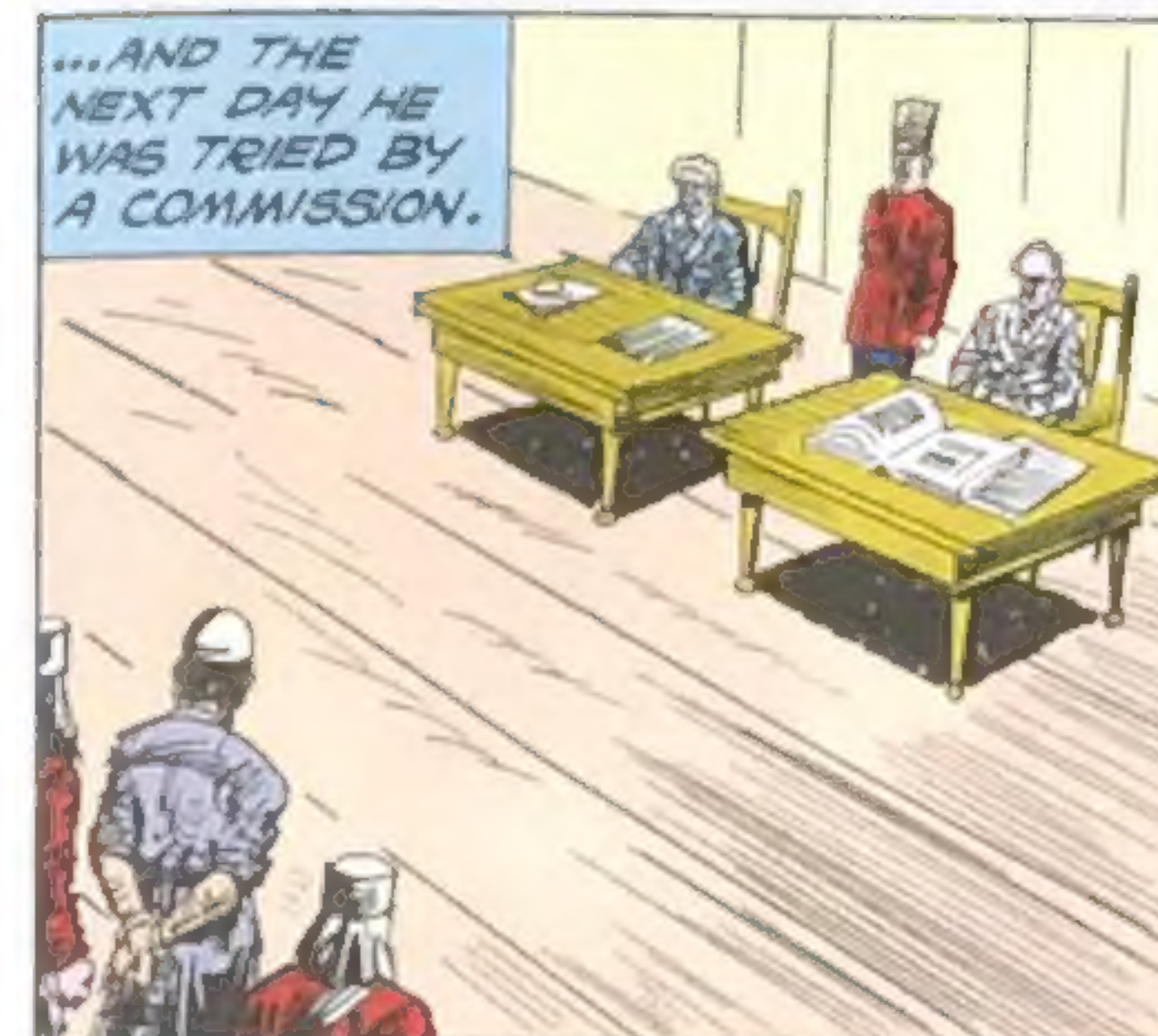
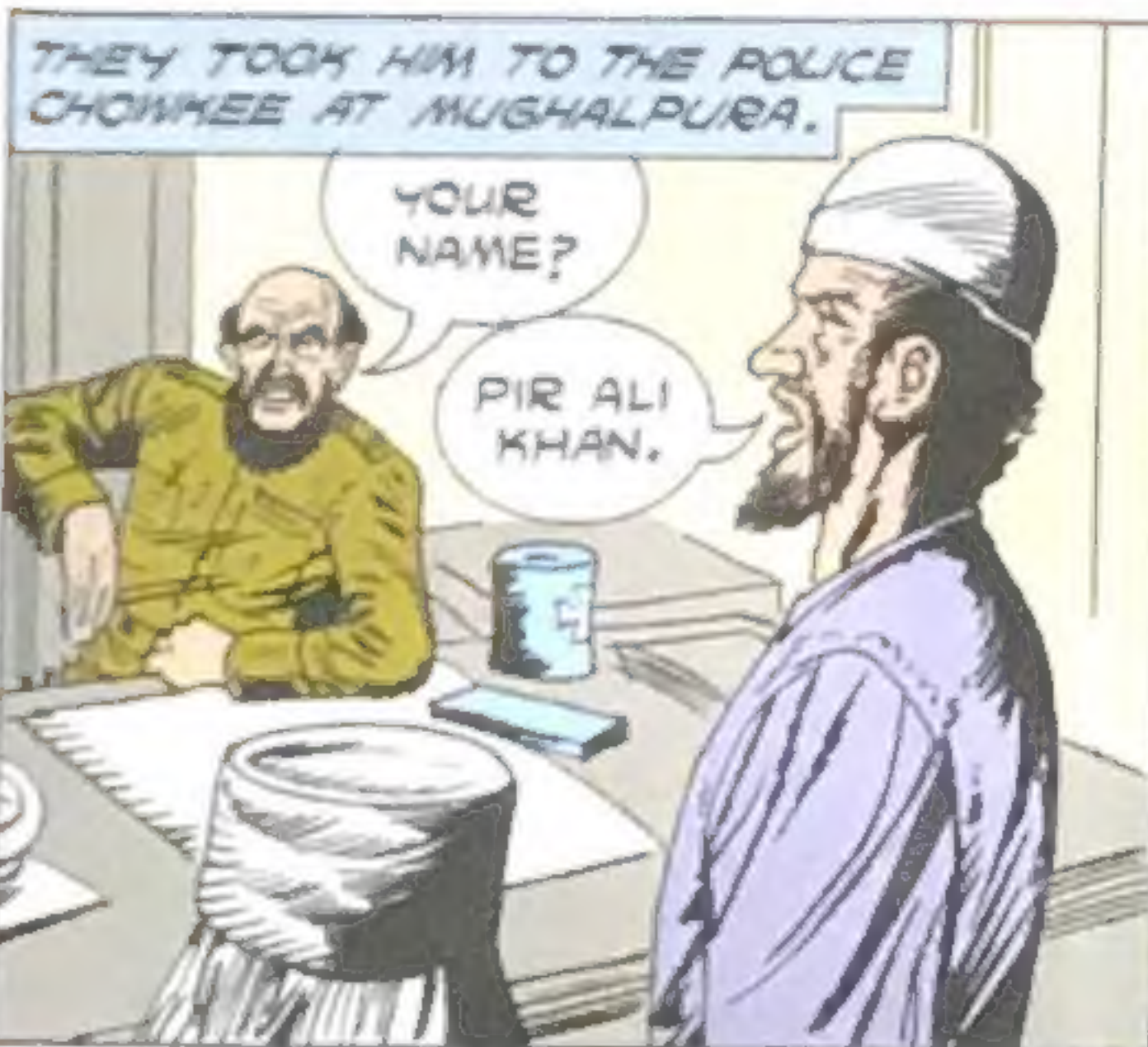


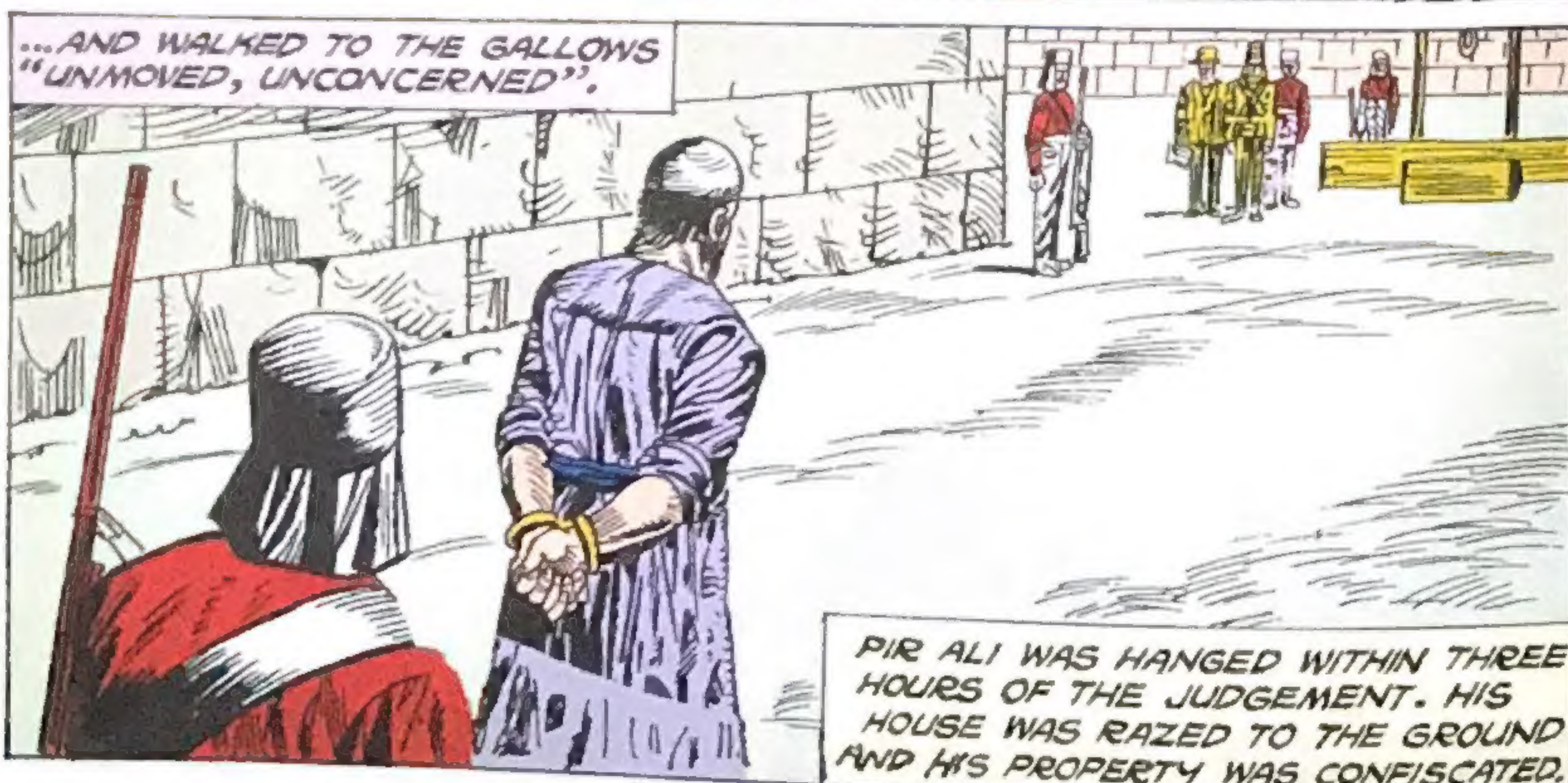
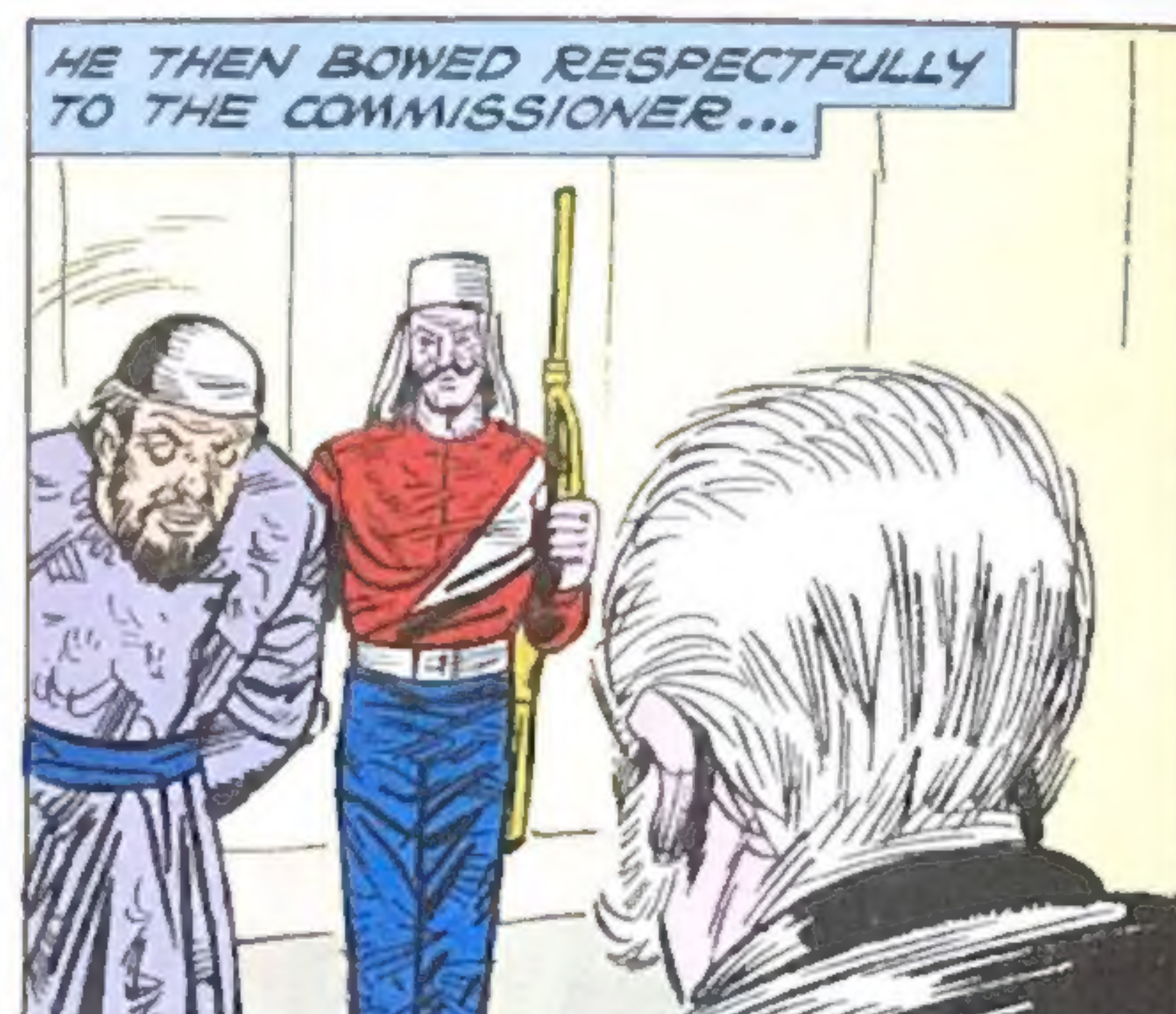
* POLICE-STATION



AAH!

CAUGHT YOU, YOU THIEF!





WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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